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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT NO.

TOPIC Finsterwalde Airfield

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT March to 26 April 1953

25X1A DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 22 May 1953

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

25X1X
SOURCE

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1. In March 1953, source observed 6 hangars at Finsterwalde airfield, while the former repair hangar was demolished. The dirt road to the guardhouse branched off from the road to Finsterwalde, southeast of Nehesdorf, opposite the brickyard. Just north of this dirt road there was the first building of the former komendatura now designated hotel, which probably quartered the flight personnel. Adjacent to the east there were three barracks buildings. The large supply building was about 500 meters east of the guardhouse. Low wooden buildings were scattered in the building area. To the south, the building area was bordered by the old Post Strasse, which leads from Lichterfeld to Schimenz-Muehle.
2. In the fall of 1952, two brick buildings, each about 14 x 80 meters had been built about 50 meters north of a firing range in the building area. These buildings were occupied by AAA personnel. Each building consisted of two large rooms and six smaller rooms at one end. A temporary kitchen building with a large messhall and storage rooms had also been newly erected nearby. The kitchen was equipped with a large range, 2 boilers with a capacity of 300 liters and 2 boilers with a capacity of 250 liters each. The AAA personnel was subordinate to a colonel who had his office in one of the German barracks buildings.
3. Other kitchens at the field included the "technical kitchen" with two large smokestacks located farthest east, next to the demolished repair hangar and a kitchen in the large supply building which was equipped with 1,000-liter boilers. All the boilers were in operation in mid-March.
4. About mid-March, 10 canvas-covered guns with an estimated caliber of 37-mm were observed near the AAA billets. In mid-April, source observed in Finsterwalde AA guns with an estimated caliber of 85-mm which were towed by three-axle trucks, each occupied by about 15 soldiers.¹
5. On 9 April, 18 jet planes were counted in front of the hangars at the southern edge of the field.²

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- ☐ 6. Between 10 and 11 a.m. on 26 April, there was no air activity at the field. Seventeen Il-28 and Uil-28 planes were observed in front of the closed hangars.²
7. In the northwestern section of the field there was an AA gun emplacement in which two gun barrels probably of 85-mm guns were observed. At 10:15 a.m., seven boxcars loaded with sacks were shunted to the airfield.¹
8. Source learned that the Bauunion Leipzig was contracted for enlargement work at the field, allegedly comprising an area of 80 acres. Offices and billets for the workers which had been rented were vacated in the second half of April. According to an employee of the municipal construction office, the project was to be canceled.³

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1. ☐ Comment. The following AA gun batteries are believed to be located at Finsterwalde airfield: A battery of 85-mm guns in the northern section; a battery of 37-mm guns in the eastern section, a battery of 37-mm guns in the southeastern section, and a battery of 85-mm guns west of the westernmost hangar.

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2. ☐ Comment. The airfield is occupied by a bomber regiment which, according to available information, is equipped with about 18 Il-28s.

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3. ☐ Comment. It was learned in March 1953 that the field was possibly to be enlarged. The present report indicates that this plan has been temporarily canceled.

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